Dropouts rate in Punjab

6607. SHRI IQBAL SING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of projects for introduction of modern methods of teaching, curbing the alarming rate of dropouts, reducing the back breaking load of school bags, attention to hygiene for primary education in the country particularly in the state of Punjab.

(b) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the speedy steps taken by Government to provide the primary education to poor and neglected children of the weaker sections of the society in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The major Centrally sponsored programmes to universalise elementary education and to improve its content and process are operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education and Teacher Education. Details of these programmes as well as state-wise releases are available in the Department of Education.

Courses conducted by Open Universities

6608. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Open Universities in the country;

(b) the total number of students enrolled during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in each University, University-wise;

(c) what are the details of courses, programmes and vocational courses which are available in all the Open Universities, course-wise/language-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that all the courses are not available in both Hindi and English versions in all the Open Universities;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to adopt bilingual system in all the courses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) There are 7 Open Universities in the country. The names of these Universities and the number of students enrolled therein during 1993-94 and 1994-95, to the extent these are available with the Government of India, are as follows:

Indira Gandhi National Open University	93-94	84,175
	94-95	91,398
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University	93-94	60,000
	94-95	Information not Available.
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University	93-94	32,403
	94-95	38,717
Kota Open University	93-94	8,158
	94-95	Information not available.
Nalanda Open University	93-94 94-95	Information not available
M.P. Bhoj Open University	Programme Yet to be launched.	
Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University Ahmedabad	Programme yet to be launched.	